

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct minor errors. A marked up version of the amended paragraph of the specification is attached hereto pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(iii). Claims 1-11 have been amended for clarity. A marked up version of the amended claims is also attached hereto pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(ii). New claims 12-20 have been added. Thus, claims 1-20 are presently pending in this application for consideration.

The amendments to the present application are made to place the application in better form and to place the application in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added. Entry and consideration of these amendments prior to the first Office Action are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at Los Angeles, California, telephone number (213) 337-6742 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

By: 

Anthony J. Orler
Registration No. 41,232
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date: July 29, 2002

Biltmore Tower, Suite 1900
500 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone: 213 337-6700
Fax: 213 337-6701

Version with markings to show changes made:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph 0008 starting on page 3 as follows:

The present invention was made in consideration to the aforementioned circumstance, and it is thus [the object] an advantage of the present invention [is] to provide a communication system capable of connecting to the terminal within the local system from the Internet, or connecting to the terminals within different local systems via a plurality of relay servers, and a relay server preferable to be used in such a communication system.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Once Amended) A relay server comprising:

communicating means [capable of] for communicating with a plurality of network devices and a different relay server; and

connection information holding means for holding connection information of the plurality of network devices capable of communicating by the communicating means;

wherein the communicating means refers to the connection information based on a connection demand from one of the plurality of network devices, and relays communication to another one of the plurality of network devices via the different relay server [when necessary].

2. (Once Amended) [A] The relay server according to claim 1 wherein the communicating means receives the connection information the different relay server holds and stores the connection information in the connection information holding means.

3. (Once Amended) A communication system comprising:
a plurality of network devices; and
a plurality of relay servers connected to the plurality of network devices by a network,

wherein one of the plurality of network devices establishes a communication path with one of the plurality of relay servers and carries out communication by performing a connection demand with another one of the plurality of network devices, and

the one [of] relay [servers] server relays the communication with the [another of the] other network [devices] device via [another] at least one other relay server of the plurality of relay servers [when necessary] based on the connection demand from the one [of the] network [devices] device.

4. (Once Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 3 wherein each of the plurality of relay servers obtains connection information of [ones] each of the plurality of network devices, [said ones] each of the plurality of network devices [are] is connected to and capable of communicating with [the] each of the plurality of relay servers, and [the] each of the plurality of relay servers decides which relay server communication is relayed.

5. (Once Amended) A relay server comprising:
communicating means [capable of] for communicating with a plurality of network devices and a different relay server; and
connection information holding means for holding connection information of the network devices which are capable of communicating,

wherein the communicating means renews the connection information based on a demand from one of the plurality of network devices, and notifies the renewed connection information to the different relay server based on renewal of the connection information.

6. (Once Amended) A relay server comprising:

communicating means [capable of] for communicating with a plurality of network devices and a different relay server; and

connection information holding means for holding connection information of the plurality of network devices which are capable of communicating,

wherein the communicating means renews the connection information within the connection information holding means based on renewal notification of connection information from the different relay server.

7. (Once Amended) A communication system comprising:

a plurality of network devices; and

a plurality of relay servers connected to the plurality of network devices by a network,

wherein one of the plurality of network devices establishes a communication path with one of the plurality of relay servers and carries out communication by performing a connection demand with another one of the plurality of network devices, and

the one [of the] relay [servers] server holds connection information of the plurality of network devices which are capable of communicating, renews the connection information based on the connection demand, notifies the renewed connection information to different [ones of the] relay servers of the plurality of relay servers, and renews the connection

information based on renewal notification of connection information transmitted from the different [ones of the] relay servers.

8. (Once Amended) A communication system comprising:

a plurality of network devices; and

a plurality of relay servers connected to the plurality of network devices by a network,

a data base server for holding connection information of the plurality of network devices and providing the connection information to the plurality of relay servers,

wherein one of the plurality of network devices establishes a communication path with one of the plurality of relay servers, and carries out communication by performing a connection demand with another one of the plurality of network devices, and

wherein the one [of the] relay [servers] server renews the connection information based on the connection demand from the one [of the] network [devices] device, the one [of the] relay [servers] server causes the data base server to hold the renewed connection information.

9. (Once Amended) A facsimiles system comprising:

a facsimile machine connected to an inner network;

a gateway device for connecting the inner network to an outer network; and

a plurality of relay servers connected to the outer network,

wherein the facsimile machine makes connection to one of the plurality of relay servers in advance via the gateway device, and then transmits or receives an image, and

the one [of the] relay [servers] server relays communication or the image between the gateway device and another gateway device by carrying out the communication with one or a plurality of the gateway devices and one or a plurality of different relay servers.

10. (Once Amended) [A] The facsimiles system according to claim 9 wherein the one [of the] relay [servers] server manages the facsimile machine to be connected thereto in accordance with identifying information specific to the facsimile machine.

11. (Once Amended) [A] The facsimile system according to claim 9 wherein a plurality of facsimile machines within the inner network and another inner network can be connected to the one [of the] relay [servers] server via the gateway device and the another gateway device, and the one [of the] relay [servers] server manages each of the plurality of facsimile machines to be connected thereto in accordance with identifying information specific to each of the plurality of facsimile machines.